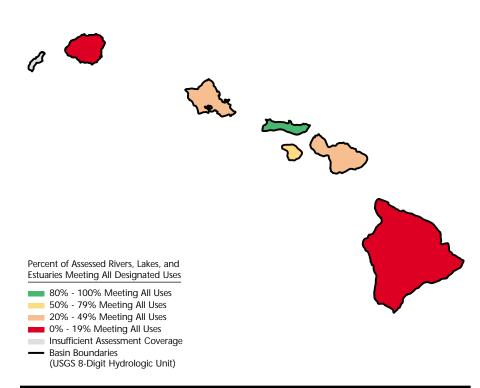
Hawaii



For a copy of the Hawaii 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Most of Hawaii's waterbodies have variable water quality due to stormwater runoff. During dry weather, most streams and estuaries have good water quality that fully supports beneficial uses, but the quality declines when stormwater runoff carries pollutants into surface waters. The most significant pollution problems in Hawaii are siltation, turbidity, nutrients, organic enrichment, toxics, pathogens, and pH from nonpoint sources, including

agriculture and urban runoff. Introduced species and stream alteration are other stressors of concern. Very few point sources discharge into Hawaii's streams; most industrial facilities and wastewater treatment plants discharge into coastal waters. Other concerns include elevated levels of arsenic from a now-closed canoe plant and the spread, through recreational contact, of *leptospirosis*, a disease caused by a pathogenic bacteria.

Hawaii did not report on the condition of wetlands.

Ground Water Quality

Compared to mainland states, Hawaii has very few ground water problems due to a long history of land use controls for ground water protection. Prior to 1961, the state designated watershed reserves to protect the purity of rainfall recharging ground water. The Underground Injection Control Program also prohibits wastewater injection in areas surrounded by "no-pass" lines. However, aguifers outside of reserves and no-pass lines may be impacted by injection wells, household wastewater disposal systems, such as seepage pits and cesspools, landfills, leaking underground storage tanks, and agricultural activities.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Recognition of nonpoint source pollution as the major cause of surface water impairment in Hawaii has led to the creation of the Polluted Runoff Control (PRC)
Program. The PRC administers the
Nonpoint Source Pollution Control
Program, which has oversight for
nonpoint source implementation
projects. In addition, the program
with the largest impact on nonpoint
source pollution is the stormwater
program. This is a permitting program administered by the Clean
Water Branch of the Department of
Health for entities that discharge
significant quantities of stormwater.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

Hawaii's monitoring program, which is based on a network of routine monitoring stations, has continued to suffer setbacks due to budgetary restraints over the past several years. Toxics and biota sampling were completely curtailed and routine monitoring has been reduced significantly. The Department of Health (DOH) is investigating the use of Clostrida Pererfringens as an indicator of sewage contamination, and some new laboratory equipment has been purchased. Other than these two developments, DOH has not initiated any new monitoring or assessment programs or made significant innovations to the existing ones. Unfortunately, further budgetary cuts are expected in the future.

Individual Use Support in Hawaii Percent Not Good Good Fair Poor Attainable (Threatened) (Not (Fully (Partially Supporting) Supporting) Designated Use^a Supporting) Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 3,905)b **Total Miles** Assessed 60 40 0 0 0 3,905 100 0 0 0 0 <u>3,</u>892 100 0 0 0 0 3,898 Lakes (Total Acres = 2,168) **Total Acres** Assessed Estuaries (Total Square Miles = 55) **Total Square** 100 Miles Assessed 0 0 0 0 0.02 100 0.02 0 0 0 0 100 0 0 0 0 0.02 100 0.02 0 0 0 0

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

^a A subset of Hawaii's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

^bIncludes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.